

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07515 112307Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /048 W
-----045619 121208Z /43

R 112253Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2023

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP

SUBJECT: POLICE RAIDS AGAINST EXTREMIST GROUPS

1. HARD ON THE HEELS OF THE OCTOBER 8 ATTACK IN GUERNICA
BY BASQUE ETA TERRORISTS (MADRID 7498) SPANISH
AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT POLICE HAVE CARRIED OUT RAIDS
AGAINST TWO PRINCIPAL TERRORIST GROUPS: THE FAR-LEFT
GRAPO AND THE FAR-RIGHT APOSTOLIC ANTI-COMMUNIST ALLIANCE
(TRIPLE A). A TOTAL OF 29 PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED,
WITHOUT ANY INJURIES TO POLICE OR SUSPECTS, WHO REPORTEDLY
INCLUDE THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF GRAPO. THE TRIPLE A IS THE
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GROUP CREDITED WITH THE RECENT ATTACK AGAINST THE
SATIRICAL BARCELONA NEWSPAPER "EL PAPUS", WHICH KILLED
ONE AND INJURED 15 ON SEPTEMBER 20 (MADRID 7111).

2. THE TRIPLE A CASE ACTUALLY BEGAN TO BREAK OCTOBER 7,
WHEN BARCELONA POLICE ARRESTED TWO MEN. INFORMATION AND
DOCUMENTS OBTAINED FROM THEM LED TO THE ARREST OF 9 MORE

ON OCTOBER 9. AMONG THESE ARE SEVERAL FIGURES WHOSE FAR-RIGHT CREDENTIALS LEND CREDIBILITY TO THE CURRENT CHARGES. THE MOST PROMINENT, MANUEL GOMEZ BENET, IS DESCRIBED AS A RICH BUSINESSMAN FROM LERIDA PROVINCE, FORMERLY ACTIVE IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND A MEMBER OF THE ULTRA-RIGHTIST "GUARD OF FRANCO." HIS FAR-RIGHT ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN SPAIN'S LEADING WEEKLY, LEFT CENTER "CAMBIO 16", WHILE THE "CATALUNYA EXPRES" STATES THAT HE HAS BEEN SEEN "ACCOMPANIED BY ITALIANS" (PRESUMABLY FASCISTS).

3. FIFTEEN GRAPO MEMBERS WERE CAPTURED AT ONE BLOW IN A BENIDORM APARTMENT OCTOBER 9. LATER THE SAME DAY, IN MADRID, THREE ADDITIONAL GRAPO MEMBERS WERE CAPTURED AT TWO "SAFE" APARTMENTS. REPORTEDLY INCLUDED IN THE SWEEP ARE THE TOP REMAINING LEADERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING SECRETARY GENERAL MANUEL MARTINEZ PEREZ, 39, AND ONE JOSE ARENAS MARTINEZ, STATED TO BE AMONG THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF A POLICE CAPTAIN IN MADRID (MADRID 7207). THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT SPANISH AUTHORITIES HAVE TALKED OF CAPTURING THE TOP GRAPO LEADERSHIP, BUT THIS TIME THEIR CLAIMS APPEAR TO HAVE SUBSTANCE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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